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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 SSO-00

NSCE-00 AID-05 SSM-05 SCCT-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /090 W
---------- 030722
O R 061059Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9006
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5192

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: AUG 6 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT SYRO-LEBANESE-
PALESTINIAN MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN SOFAR TODAY;
EGYPTIANS AND IRAQIS CRITICIZED FOR JOINT EFFORTS TO
FACILITATE ENTRY OF IRQQI TROOPS INTO LEBANON

1. SYRIAN MEDIA PREDICT SOFAR MEETING BETWEEN SYRIAN, PLO
AND LEBANESE REPS WILL TAKE PLACE AUG. 6. (CONFERENCE
HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED HERE FOR AUGUST 5 WITH
SYRIAN SIDE TO BE LED BY FONMIN KHADDAM. SYRIAN MEDIA
HAVE NOT REPORTED FOREIGN BROADCASTS THAT PHALANGIST AND
PLO DELEGATIONS ARE BOTH BACK IN DAMASCUS FOR FURTHER
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TALKS.)

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2. MEDIA DENOUNCED EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO IRAQI TROOPS ENTERING LEBANON. PRESS REPORTS ON MILITARY SITUATION IN LEBANON SOMEWHAT CONFUSED. BANNER HEADLINES PROCLAIM: "CALMNESS PREVAILS IN BEIRUT AS RESULT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE". ARTICLES, HOWEVER, CITED NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT CEASEFIRE VIOLATED AFTERNOON AUGUST 5. PRESS NOTED BEIRUT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT PREVIOUS EVENING THAT FRESH BATCH OF 150 IRAQI TROOPS ENTERED LEBANON RECENTLY VIA CAIRO. CITING RESULTS OF INTERROGATION OF IRAQI PRISONERS, ANNOUNCEMENT STATED BAGHDAD HAS BEEN FLYING ITS TROOPS TO CAIRO FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO TYRE ON SHIPS PROVIDED BY EGYPT. APPROXIMATELY 500 IRAQI TROOPS HAVE SO FAR ALLEGEDLY REACHED LEBANON IN THIS MANNER. PRESS REPORT CONCLUDED THAT OBSERVERS BELIEVE "TASK OF IRAQI FORCES IN LEBANON IS TO WORK TOWARD INFLAMING SEDITION WHENEVER SPARK OF HOPE APPEARS ON POLITICAL HORIZON THAT FIGHTING MIGHT END".

3. PRESS REPORTED PRIMIN KARAME AND NAJJADAH PARTY LEADER ADNAN AL-HAKIM HAVE ATTACKED JUMBLATT FOR ESCALATING CONFESSIONAL STRIFE AND TRYING TO IMPOSE HIS LEADERSHIP ON REST OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

4. AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF BAKAA REVEALED THEIR INDIGNATION OVER AHMAD AL-KATIB'S "CONSPIRATORIAL CONTACTS" WITH ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. CITIZENS CLAIMED KHATIB ALL ALONG HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING ENEMY PLANS UNDER FALSE SLOGANS WHICH SUCCEEDED IN DECEIVING SOME SOLDIERS. ARTICLE CITED RESPONSIBLE SOURCE IN LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS WHO CHARGED THAT LAST LINK IN PLOT HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED: THE SURRENDER OF SOUTH LEBANON TO ISRAEL TO ASSIST ISRAELIS OBTAIN BETTER BARGAIN IN SETTLING PALESTINIAN ISSUE. VANGUARDS SOURCE APPEALED TO LEBANESE IN SOUTH LEBANON AND WEST BEIRUT TO BE ON ALERT FOR ELEMENT SUPPORTING TRAITORS.

5. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZED FORMATION OF POLITICAL COUNCIL BY JUMBLATT AS EVIDENCE OF HIS AMBITION TO
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PARTITION LEBANON. COLUMNIST ALSO CHARGED THAT CAIRO OBJECTS TO DAMASCUS ACCORD AS A WHOLE, NOT ONLY PORTION ANALYZING SINAI AGREEMENT AS "CAUSE OF ARAB FRAGMENTATION". MURPHY

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